Study programme description

Doctorat

English Language and Literature

Degree conferred
Philosophiae Doctor in Lingua et Litteris Britannicis / Doctor of Philosophy in English Language and Literature (PhD)

Commencement of studies
An application for admission may be submitted at any time.

Regulation
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/dGLfK (French and German only)

Application procedure
Candidates with Swiss qualifications
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/0bJpN
Candidates with foreign qualifications
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/4a2qV

Fribourg profile

The English Domain at the University of Fribourg welcomes doctoral research (PhD) in the following fields of study: English Philology, English Linguistics, English Literature, and American Literature.

English Philology
Philoogy, the study of medieval texts, is a distinct field of study at undergraduate and graduate levels within the English domain. Graduate students in English Philology can benefit from the resources of Fribourg’s interdisciplinary Medieval Institute as well as close collaboration with medievalists at other Swiss and English universities. The Professor of Philology at Fribourg is Elisabeth Dutton, who specializes in early English drama and medieval English devotional compilations and women’s writing. She currently heads two major research projects on drama in different institutions: medieval Oxford colleges, and English and French medieval convents.

English Linguistics
English linguistics at Fribourg focuses on the analysis of the processes involved in the construction and interpretation of meaning in context. Another specificity of English linguistics lies in the emphasis set on empirical approaches to research. PhD students are invited to use different methodologies in their project, and in particular to evaluate the robustness of theoretical claims against empirical evidence. In that respect, PhD students will receive training in quantitative approaches, involving experimental methodologies and statistical analysis. Prof. Maillat is the director of the Swissuniversities doctoral programme Language and Cognition which offers regular intensive specialised courses on many aspects of doing linguistic research. The kind of topics that are typically covered include persuasion, figurative language, humour, deceptive communication, argumentation theory, linguistics of spatial language.
Theses can be supervised in English, or French.

**English Literature**
- **Prof. Indira Ghose**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Early modern drama
  – Literature of the British Empire
  – Humour and the comic
  – Renaissance courtesy literature
  – History of the emotions
- **Prof. Dimiter Daphinoff**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – Shakespeare and his contemporaries
  – The eighteenth-century novel
  – The Gothic novel
  – Twentieth-century drama
  – Links between literature and terrorism

**American Literature**
- **Prof. Thomas Austenfeld**
  Areas of specialisation:
  – American Poetry
  – American Modernism
  – Regional American literatures, especially the South and the West

**Studies organisation**

**Structure of studies**
No ECTS credits can be earned.

**Doctoral school**
http://studies.unifr.ch/go/phd-language-and-cognition

**Admission**

In order to be admitted to a doctorate the candidate must have been awarded an academic *Bachelor’s and Master’s degree* or an equivalent qualification by a university recognised by the University of Fribourg.

Before applying for a doctorate the candidate must contact a professor who would be willing to supervise the thesis work.

There is no general right to be admitted to a doctorate.

*The respective conditions of admission for each doctoral study programme are reserved.*

**Contact**

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